

MAR 08 2019

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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DECLARING JUNE 27 OF EACH YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY  
AWARENESS DAY AND DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE OF EACH  
YEAR AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH IN  
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the  
2 basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the  
5 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting  
6 physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress  
9 Disorder (PTSD) was first recognized and defined by the American  
10 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to more accurately understand  
11 and treat veterans who had endured severe operational combat  
12 stress; and  
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14 WHEREAS, combat stress injuries have historically been  
15 unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting  
16 flaw of character or ability, and that the word "disorder"  
17 carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception, which can  
18 discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical  
19 treatment; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from combat  
22 operational stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and  
23 bias against mental illness; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging  
26 that post-traumatic stress conditions are more accurately  
27 described as an injury rather than as a disorder; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, severe post-traumatic stress is a very common and  
30 treatable injury to the brain, which can occur following extreme



1 traumatic events including, but not limited to, interpersonal  
2 violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural  
3 disasters; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, referring to the condition as Post-Traumatic  
6 Stress Injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and viewed as more  
7 honorable, and this designation can favorably influence those  
8 affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of  
9 retribution or shame; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, while all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve  
12 compassion and consideration, those men and women of the United  
13 States Armed Forces who have received these wounds in action  
14 against an enemy of the United States deserve our special  
15 tribute and acknowledgement; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, PTSI is an injury that is repairable, and timely  
18 treatment can diminish complications and prevent suicides among  
19 the injured; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, Michigan was the first state to pass a resolution  
22 recognizing a PTSI awareness day in 2014 and since that time 39  
23 other states, as well as the United States House of  
24 Representatives, have passed similar resolutions officially  
25 proclaiming support for PTSI awareness; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
28 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
29 twenty-seventh day of June of each year shall be designated as  
30 Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the month of June of each year  
33 shall be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness  
34 Month in Hawaii; and

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and  
37 the United States Department of Veteran Affairs are urged to  
38 continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence,  
39 combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters and  
40 their families, as well as the general public, about the causes,  
41 symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and




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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transmitted  
 2 to the Governor for appropriate proclamation and execution and  
 3 to the Secretary of State of the United States for appropriate  
 4 publication and preservation; and

5  
 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of  
 8 Veteran Affairs; Governor; Director of Health; Director of the  
 9 State Office of Veterans Services; and the Executive Director of  
 10 Honor For All, a non-profit organization dedicated to  
 11 eliminating the stigma attached to post-traumatic stress, and to  
 12 preserving the dignity of the injured while working to avert  
 13 impulsive or dangerous behavior which might lead to suicide.  
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